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23 June 1951

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: ~~Weapons Division~~ O/SI

1. ²The conversation between [redacted] and myself, which took place the 20th of June, 1951, ~~concerned the~~ ^{was} the fear that the weapons Division may be abolished.

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2. O/SI back-shop and front-shop work well ^{together} because it is virtually the same. (Almost) everyone is cleared. All Weapons Division sit in the back-shop. All O/SI work makes use of special intelligence, ~~although~~ ^{though} Division Chiefs still do not really use all the special intelligence there is, [redacted]

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3. NIE-31: The O/SI draft is being shown ^{around} and ^{they are} getting information from all over town. Draft for O/NE is in process. Lots of work is being done in D.C.—ICIS aegis ~~with~~ ^{with} FBI representatives (giving party line). Other agencies have not cleared O/SI draft. FBI may balk at operational information.

4. O/SI current bulletin and supplement may be bi-weekly ~~and for internal use~~. To be shown to SIC and to offer them copies if they wish.

5. RDB questions ~~were~~ sent to all services. An O/SI draft letter proposes O/SI coordinate and asks that they ^{name} man. O/SI does not think SIC people will be named -- a broader scope. Someone must coordinate or RDB will have to. (cf. FCDA and PSB). They will avoid a squabble on Weapons Division because it focuses on R & D.

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6. CIA. [redacted] thinks, must keep a small group of experts in every field so as to needle and check responsible agencies. Cites cases of G-2, A-2 reluctantly modifying estimates in face of CIA arguments and evidence. Services work on all source, but not as much as they should.

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8. A line could be drawn between scientific and technical depending on definition. (JCS definitions overlap). O/SI must be in Scientific side, Research and Development, but need not be in technical except as a check on the military -- substantively.

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- 9. [] thinks O/SI can have a "production program" unlike O/NE, because their field is quite limited. He looks on it as preliminary analysis necessary prior to final finished reports. It would point to reports in their several fields, requiring continuous revisions, but would also enable them to answer any other requests that are made. So his "production program" is really:

- a. The basic analysis and internal production required to keep abreast;

- b. The minimum basic external or final products for which O/SI is responsible;

- c. Anything else that is requested of them.)

It seems to me that on this basis O/NE could have a minimum or basic program too, i.e., what is necessary on which to build the estimates of the moment in the future.

10. Another reason given for continuation of the Weapons Division is to support O/PC. This is better than for O/PC to rely on A-2, etc., because:

- a. Security, and;

- b. Lack of bias.

Most O/PC-O/SI relations are through [] and the O/PC bridgehead, though both offices can get to working level in other.

[]

Intelligence Coordination

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